

Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

February 2020

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



Part I Total Crime

An analysis of serious crime statistics for the first two months of 2020 points to a substantive increase of 21% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with 2019. Over the first eight weeks of this year, there were 368 serious crimes reported in the City. For the same time period in 2019, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 304 incidents, 64 fewer than this year. When measured against the five-year average, a healthy 15% rise in the crime index was recorded.

Further analysis of the crime totals for the first 60 days of 2020 reveals that violent crimes recorded a sizable 28% increase to start the year, while property crimes registered a 20% bounce upward with 54 additional crimes reported when compared with the same time frame in 2019. There have been no reports of shots being fired in Cambridge so far in 2020.

When measuring the serious crime totals of February versus the previous month of January of 2020, there has been a slight dip of 18% in the number of index incidents with 32 fewer crimes counted in the second month of this year. The 42% decrease in larcenies from motor vehicles, 53% drop in larcenies from buildings, and 52% drop in bike thefts when compared with the previous month were some of the key indicators fueling this decline.

	4 Week Snapshot			<u>Y</u>	ear to	<u>Date</u>	<u>Five Year</u>		
	1/7/20 - 2/3/20	2/4/20 - 3/2/20	Change	2019	2020	Change	Avg	Change	
Total Violent Crime	19	23	21%	36	46	28%	39	18%	
Total Property Crime	163	127	-22%	268	322	20%	281	15%	
Total Part I Crime	182	150	-18%	304	368	21%	320	15%	



Part I Property Crime

A review of property crime totals for the first two months of 2020 identifies a 20% increase when measured against the 2019 totals and a 15% bounce above the five-year average, with 54 additional incidents above March 2nd of last year and 41 crimes above the 281 reports forecasted for this time period.

Ten of the major property crime categories registered inclines when measured against the first eight weeks of 2019, most notably a 88% rise in larceny of bicycles. Other property crimes registering upticks when compared with the first two months of last year include: shoplifting (+52%); larceny from residence (+21%); larceny from buildings (+29%); and burglary (+67%).

	4 Week Snapshot		Year to Date			<u>Five Year</u>		
	1/7/20 - 2/3/20	2/4/20 - 3/2/20	Change	2019	2020	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	13	17	31%	21	35	67%	34	3%
Commercial Break	0	8	IN-CALC	2	8	300%	5	60%
Housebreak	13	9	-31%	19	27	42%	29	-7%
Larceny	148	103	-30%	234	278	19%	235	18%
Larceny (Misc)	4	2	-50%	2	6	200%	5	20%
Larceny from Building	30	14	-53%	42	54	29%	46	17%
Larceny from MV	17	11	-35%	52	30	-42%	44	-32%
Larceny from Person	11	11	0%	21	24	14%	25	-4%
Larceny from Residence	30	16	-47%	43	52	21%	40	30%
Larceny of Bicycle	21	10	-52%	17	32	88%	14	129%
Larceny of Plate	0	0	IN-CALC	3	0	IN-CALC	4	-100%
Larceny of Services	0	1	IN-CALC	2	1	-50%	3	-67%
Shoplifting	35	38	9%	52	79	52%	55	44%
Auto Theft	2	7	250%	13	9	-31%	12	-25%
Total Property Crime	163	127	-22%	268	322	20%	281	15%



Part I Violent Crime

From January 1st to March 2nd of 2020, there were 46 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, ten incidents above last year (+28%) and seven additional violent crimes (+18%) above the 39 incidents forecasted for the first two months of the year.

Ten robberies counted over the first eight weeks of 2020, two categorized as commercial and eight classified as street incidents, points to an increase of three incidents (+43%) when compared with 2019. There has not been a bank robbery in Cambridge since July of 2018. After recording one rape through March 2nd of 2019, five sexual assaults have been reported thus far in 2020. The five-year average for the first eight weeks of the year translates to three rapes committed in Cambridge.

The last homicide registered in Cambridge occurred on the night of January 2nd, 2019. Shortly after 6:30PM, patrol officers responded to the New Street side of Denehy Park where a man was found suffering from apparent head trauma. Paul Wilson, 60, of Cambridge died after being taken to an area hospital. This case remains under investigation.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	1/7/20 - 2/3/20	2/4/20 - 3/2/20	Change	2019	2020	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	1	0	IN-CALC	0	IN-CALC
Rape	2	2	0%	1	5	400%	3	67 %
Robbery	4	6	50%	7	10	43%	10	0%
Commercial Robbery	0	2	IN-CALC	2	2	0%	4	-50%
Street Robbery	4	4	0%	5	8	60%	5	60%
Aggravated Assault	13	15	15%	27	31	15%	26	19%
Total Violent Crime	19	23	21%	36	46	28%	39	18%



MURDER

No Patterns

- No murders were recorded in Cambridge in the first two months of 2020.
- There was one murder recorded in Cambridge in 2019. The Middlesex District Attorney's Office and the Cambridge Police are asking for the public's assistance regarding the ongoing investigation into the fatal incident that occurred in the New Street area of Danehy Park around 6:30PM on the night of January 2nd, 2019. This incident is being investigated as a homicide. The preliminary investigation suggests that the victim, 60-year-old Paul Wilson, died as a result of blunt force trauma and that robbery does not appear to have been the motive.
- On July 22, 2018, 15-year-old Richelle Robinson of Cambridge died following an assault in which she was shoved to the ground on Cambridge Street. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner later ruled the cause of death to be blunt force trauma. On July 30, 2019, following an investigation by the Cambridge Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police, and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Isaias Plaza (4/7/00, homeless) was arraigned on charges of manslaughter and assault and battery causing serious bodily injury in connection with Robinson's death.
- For the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989, the City of Cambridge averaged slightly less than five murders per year.
 The annual average since 1990 has fallen to approximately two per year. Trend analysis over recent years points to two recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: domestic murder, in which one family member is brutally killed by another in a homicidal rage, and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife in acts of retaliatory street violence.

Percent Change*

Previous Year

5-Year Average

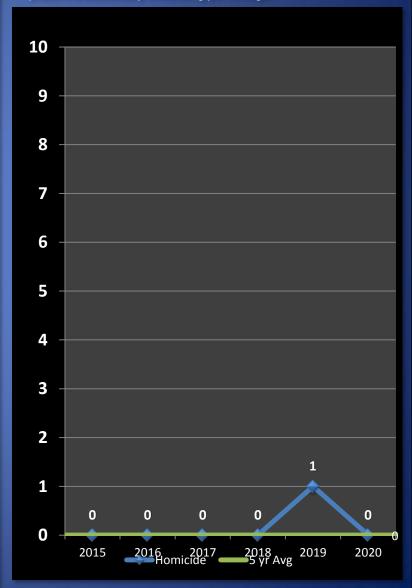
In-Calc

Last 4 Weeks

In-Calc

In-Calc

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2019

Colin Burton, 30, of Dorchester, was shot and killed outside of Hi - Fi Pizza on Mass Ave in Central Square on September 18th, 1999. Burton was talking with the occupants of a Ford Explorer when the subject in the passenger seat fired through the window. Two suspects fled the scene. The case remains under active investigation.



September 18, 1999, Mass Ave



lan Gray, 19, of Mattapan, was in an argument outside of the Rhythm & Spice restaurant that spilled out onto Mass Ave. A suspect that had left the scene returned with a group of people and a fight ensued. A knife was produced during the altercation and four gunshots were fired, fatally wounding Gray. This case remains open.

On June 17th, 2002 at 7:00PM, Ricardo Williams, 27, of Malden, was found in the driver's seat of a motor vehicle suffering from a gunshot wound to his face. Williams was taken to CCH where he was pronounced dead. This case remains open.



June 17, 2002, Windsor St.



June 16, 2009, Rindge Ave

Jason Ellcock, 33, of Malden, formerly of Cambridge and father of three, was found with multiple gunshot wounds in front of the driveway to 364 Rindge Ave at 3:05 AM on the night of June 16th, 2009. He was pronounced dead at the scene. This incident remains under investigation.

February 2020

Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact CPD at 617-349-3370.



Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2019



March 12, 2011, Brookline St.

James Lauture, 30, of Cambridge, was sitting in a vehicle near Brookline and Watson Streets just after midnight on Saturday, March 12th, 2011, when an unknown gunman opened fire. The occupants in the car were able to drive to Central Square. Lauture died from multiple gunshot wounds. The other man in the vehicle survived. This case remains open.

On June 3rd, 2012, **Charlene Holmes**, 16, of Cambridge, was shot while sitting on a porch on Willow St. She later succumbed to her wounds at the hospital. The investigation into this incident remains active, but no arrests have been made to date.





July 3, 2014, Windsor Street.

On July 3rd, 2014, at 10:00 PM, Kensley David, 22, suffered a single gunshot wound to the head while on Windsor Street. Investigators believe that the incident was not random. This case remains under investigation.

The first murder of 2016 in Cambridge occurred on the night of March 22nd when Armando Hernandez Jr, 30, of Belmont was killed by gunfire on Mt. Auburn St just before 10 PM. Area residents said they heard 10 or 11 gunshots. A second victim was hospitalized with a leg wound. This case remains under investigation.



March 22, 2016, Mt Auburn St

February 2020

Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact CPD at 617-349-3370.



Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2019



June 25, 2016, 140 Harvard St.

On June 25th of 2016, Cambridge Police responded to a report of a shooting outside of 140 Harvard Street. Arriving officers discovered the victim, Anthony Clay, 49, of Cambridge suffering from a gunshot wound. The victim was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital where he was pronounced dead. This case remains under investigation.

At 3:40 a.m. on October 14, 2017, Ednilson DaCosta, 28, of Dorchester, was shot in a motor vehicle in the area of Windsor Street & Evereteze Way. He was pronounced deceased at a local hospital. Minutes later, another male was shot and killed in Somerville. On November 3, 2017, Tony Harris, 28, of Everett, was arrested for the Somerville homicide, but the murder of Ednilson DaCosta remains under investigation.



October 14, 2017, Windsor St.



January 2nd, 2019, Danehy Park

Around 6:30PM on the night of January 2nd, 2019, a fatal incident occurred in the New Street area of Denehy Park. This incident was classified as a homicide. The investigation suggests that the victim, 60-year-old Paul Wilson, died as a result of blunt force trauma and that robbery does not appear to have been the motive. This case remains under investigation.

Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact CPD at 617-349-3370.



RAPE

No Patterns

- After recording one rape over the first two months of 2019, five sexual assaults, three classified as acquaintance scenarios and two as a domestic situations, were reported through March 2nd of 2020. The five-year average for rape in Cambridge for the first eight weeks of the year is three incidents.
- Preliminary counts indicate that there were 26 rapes reported through December 31st of 2019, three fewer (-10%) than the total through the same time period 2018. The five-year average for the year projected to 25 rapes being recorded in Cambridge, one below the 2019 total.
- There were two stranger-to-stranger rapes in Cambridge in 2019, both classified as blitz scenarios. The first involved a pair of homeless subjects near Central Square at the end of May. The second was an early morning incident near Mass Ave in Central Square during the first week of September and remains under investigation. Sixteen of the 2019 rapes were reported to be between acquaintances and the other eight were domestic incidents.

Percent Change*

Previous Year

5-Year Average

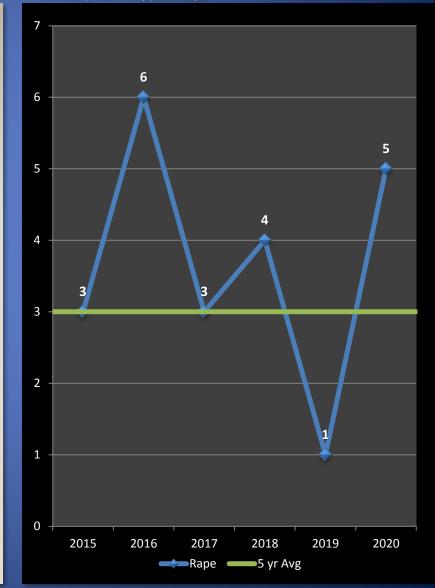
0%

Last 4 Weeks

+400%

+67%

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





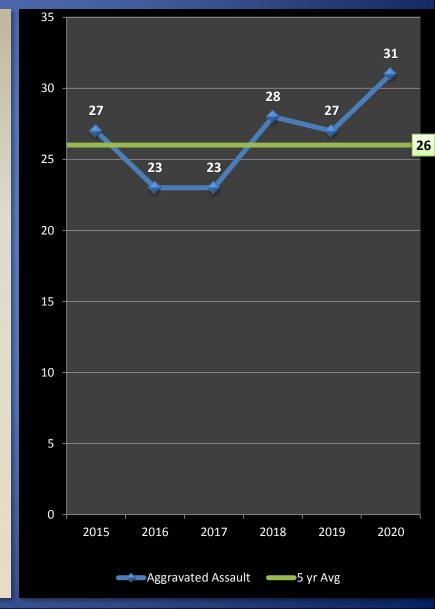
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

No Patterns

- The aggravated assault total for the first two months of 2020 is four incidents (+15%) above the total for the same time period in 2019. The 31 aggravated assaults reported over the first eight weeks of the year is also five crimes above the 26 incidents forecasted for the five year average (+19).
- The 31 aggravated assaults reported through March 2nd of 2020 were composed of the following classifications: 7 domestic altercations; 3 workplace incidents; 8 unprovoked scenarios; 4 homeless assaults; 6 altercations between acquaintances, 2 juvenile fights, and 1 between a shop owner and patron.
- There have been no reports of shots fired in Cambridge so far in 2020. There were 11 confirmed shots fired in Cambridge in 2019. Six of these incidents produced Shotspotter alerts. Three of the confirmed shootings were in the Port neighborhood. One of the most recent incidents in Cambridge took place at Hampshire St & Windsor St on 10.12.19. Multiple shell casings were recovered but no injuries were reported. This incident remains under investigation.
- Only one of the 11 shots fired in Cambridge in 2019 resulted in any injuries. This shooting, which took place at 3:30am on 5.12.19 in Harvard Square, resulted in one victim with nonfatal injuries. Three Somerville males were later arrested in connection with the incident.
- Although no shootings have occurred thus far in 2020, a stabbing was reported on 2.16.20 at 10pm when a victim confronted a group of males jumping on cars on Hingham St and was stabbed in the arm during the altercation. Two males have been arrested in connection with this incident.

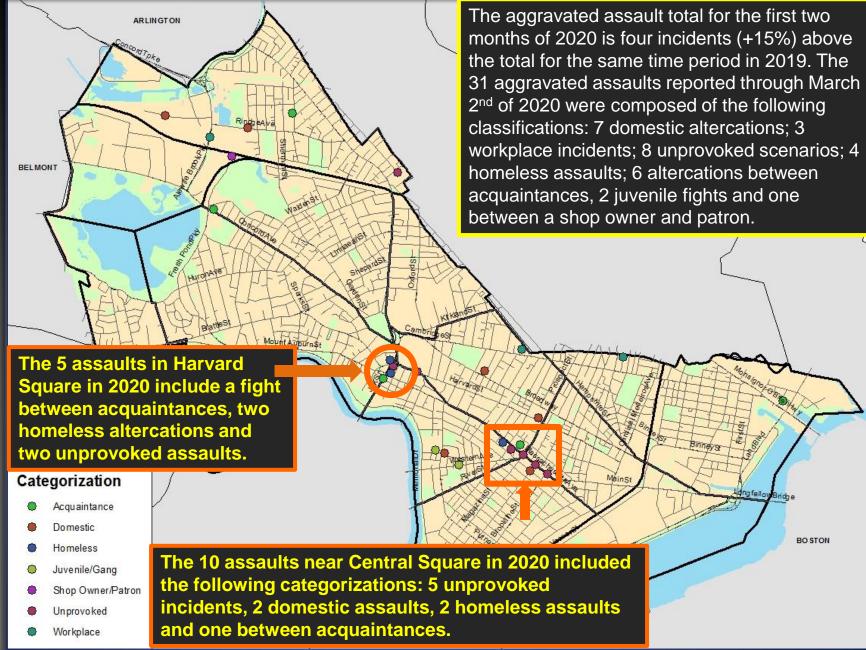
Percent Change







Geographic Breakdown of Aggravated Assaults: 1.1.20 to 3.2.20

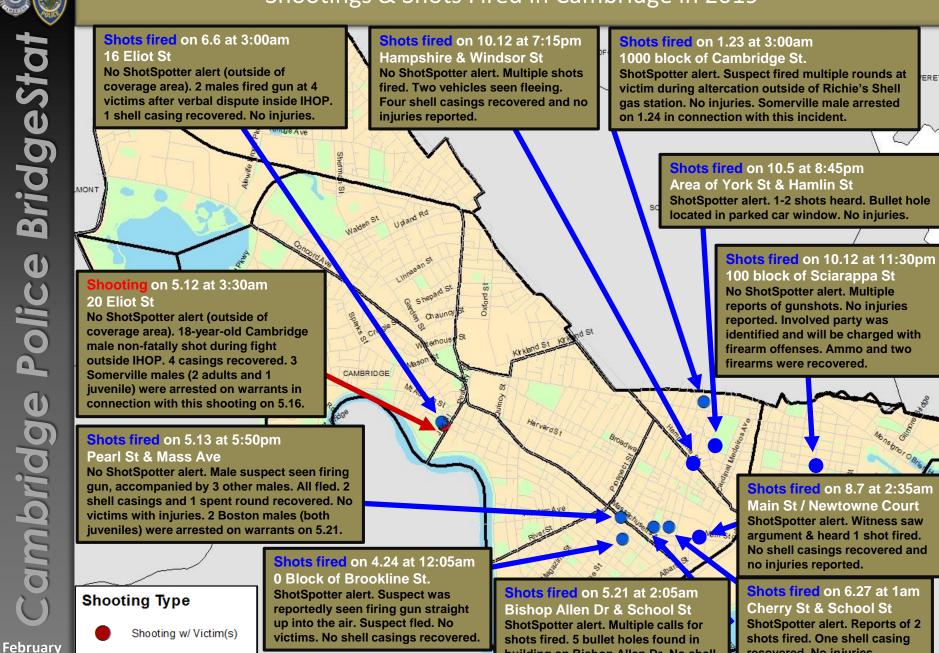


February 2020

Shots Fired (no victims)



Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge in 2019



building on Bishop Allen Dr. No shell

casings found. No injuries reported.

recovered. No injuries

reported.



Robbery

No Patterns

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first two months of the year is ten incidents, the exact number counted so far in 2020. Over the first eight weeks of 2020, the ten robberies that were recorded translate to a 43% rise above the seven robberies counted for the first two months of 2019.
- There have been just two commercial robberies reported in Cambridge in 2020, continuing the spiral downward of this crime type in the City observed in 2019. Last year's total of 11 robberies classified as commercial in nature represented the lowest total for this crime in 50 years and, for the first time in recent memory, there has not been a bank robbery committed in Cambridge in over 18 months.
- After registering four street robberies in Cambridge for the month of January of 2020, four more of this violent crime category were counted in February. These incidents included: a strong-armed theft of a cell phone from a male victim near Cambridge Street on 2.4.20; the robbery of a Delivery driver on the night of 2.12.20 on Market Street; the robbery of a delivery driver on Columbia Street on 2.22.20; and the robbery of a homeless male at 3AM near a convenience store in Central Square.

Percent Change

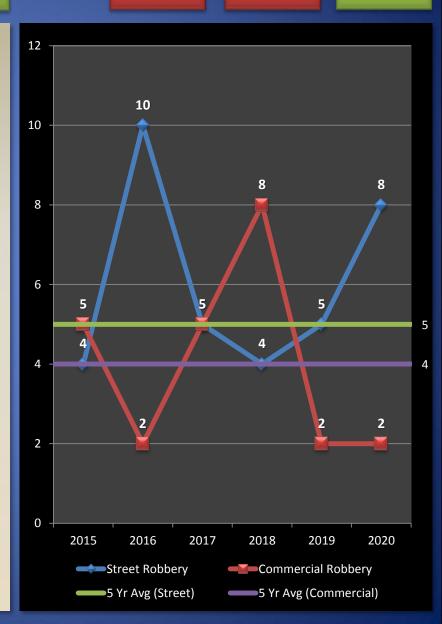
Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

+50%

+43%

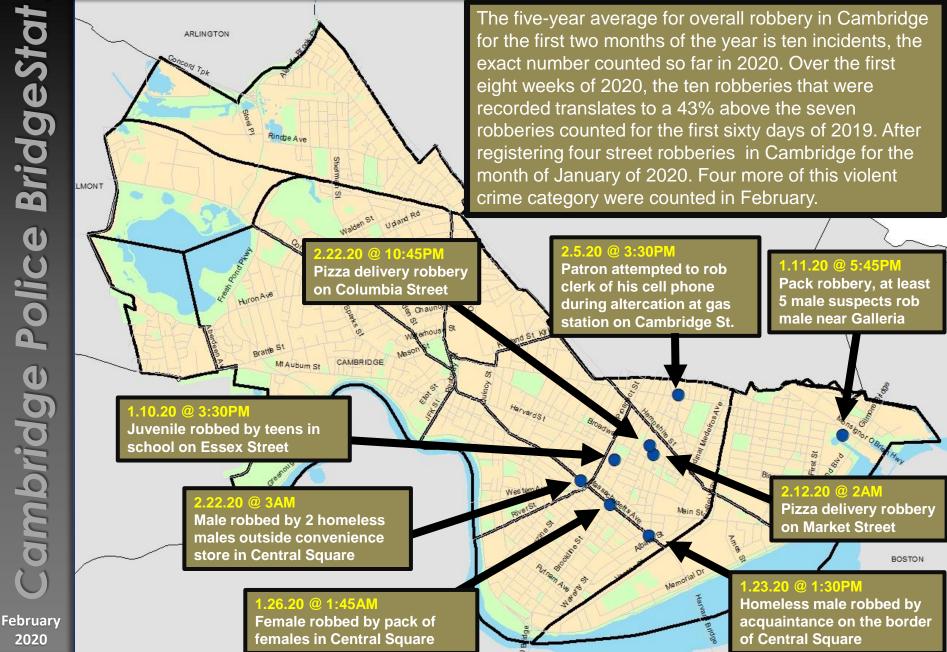
5-Year Average

0%





Geographic Breakdown of Street Robberies: 1.1.20 to 3.2.20





Burglary

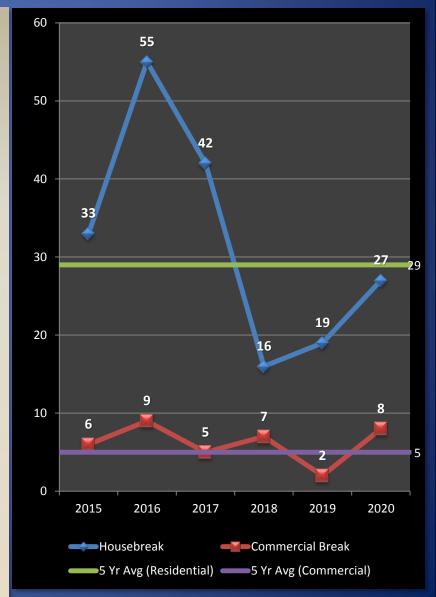
No Patterns

 The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has recorded a significant increase of 67% above the first two months of last year. The total in 2019 registered a historically low total of 21 incidents for the first eight weeks of the year. When measured versus the five-year average of 34 burglaries, the total of 35 incidents reveals a one-incident increase above the forecasted number for this time frame.

- After recording zero commercial burglaries during the first month of 2020 in Cambridge, a regional pattern of smash and grabs targeting gas stations and convenience stores materialized across Eastern Mass. This series, which included four breaks into Cambridge businesses, was eradicated with the arrest of a Malden resident at the end of February. At the present time there are no commercial burglary patterns, hot spots, or concentrations active in Cambridge.
- Currently, there are no housebreak patterns in Cambridge.
 However, when compared with last year's near historically low
 total of 19 incidents for the first two months of the year, a
 substantial 42% increase has been registered with eight
 additional crimes reported. Twenty of the 27 housebreaks
 counted in 2020 have been in the lower-half of the City, east
 of Harvard Square.
- Over the first three weeks of January, a housebreak and larceny series surfaced in the lower half of Cambridge. The majority of these incidents were occurring overnight into unlocked homes and sheds with bicycles the main target of a group of homeless suspects. Arrests were made for receiving stolen property and the pattern has been slowed but sporadic incidents persist.

Percent Change

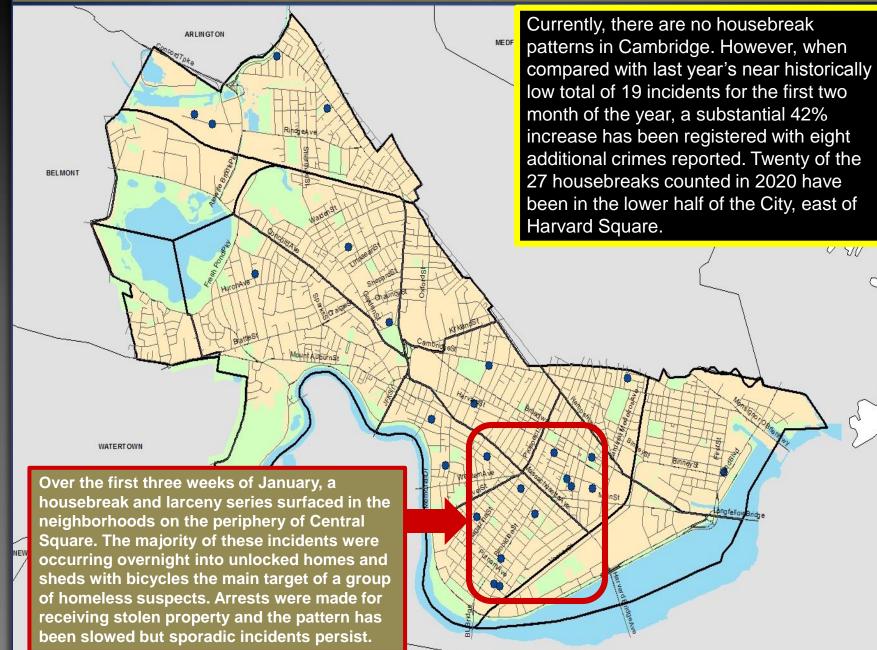
Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5-Year Average +31% +67% +3%



February 2020



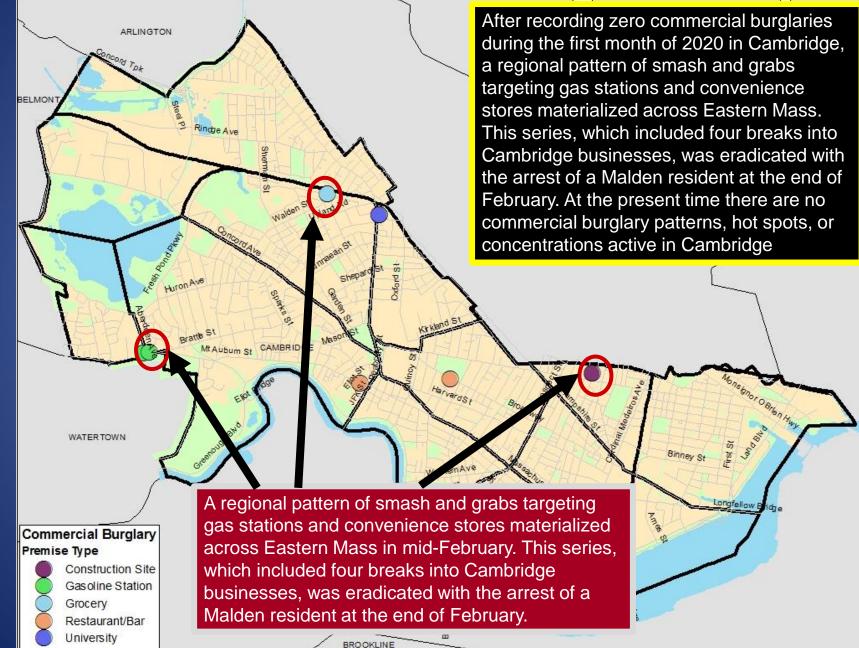
Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.20 – 3.2.20



February 2020



Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Breaks: 1.1.20 to 3.2.20





LARCENY

- No Patterns
- Overall larceny for the first two months of 2020 registered at 44 incidents (19%) above the same time frame in 2019. The total of 278 larcenies reported year-to-date in 2020 is also 18% above the 5-year average of 235 incidents through 3/2.
- There were 30 larcenies from MVs reported through March 2, 2020, 22 incidents below the number reported during the same time frame in 2019. This property crime is also down 32% below the 5-year average of 44.
- Through the first two months of 2020, there have been 24 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up 3 incidents (14%) above the same time in 2019. Central Square has seen the most activity with 10 incidents, followed by Harvard Square with 7.
- There have been 54 larcenies from buildings reported through 3/2 of 2020. This is 12 incidents (or 29%) above the same time frame in 2019 and 8 incidents (or 17%) above the 5-year average. Thefts from lockers at local gyms were one of the most problematic categories for this type of larceny in 2019 and this remains a problem in early 2020 with 9 this year.
- Larcenies from residences are up 21% (9 incidents) through the first two months of 2020 when compared with the same time in 2019. Package thefts have made up the majority of this crime type in recent years and have remained higher than average in 2020 despite the end of the holiday season, accounting for 77%, or 40 out of the 52 larcenies from residences.
- Larceny of bicycle numbers continue to rise in 2020 with 15 more bike thefts reported so far in 2020 than the same time in 2019, (+88%). Thanks to the more moderate temperatures and reduced snowfall this year when compared with past years, bike thefts are also up a substantial 129% (18 thefts) over the five-year average. Cambridgeport has seen the most bike thefts year-to-date with 8 incidents (25% of the citywide total of 32).

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

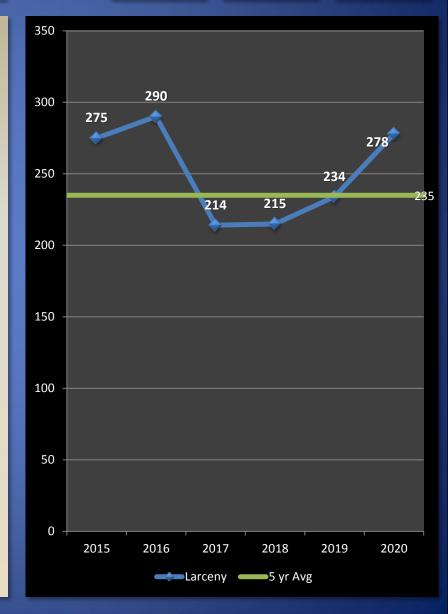
ear 5-Y

5-Year Average

-30%

+19%

+18%





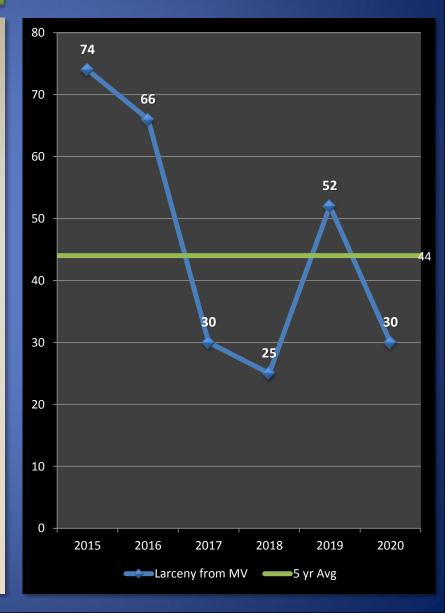
LARCENY From MV

No Patterns

- February 2020 was Boston's warmest on record for this wintery month. Unexpectedly however, larceny from motor vehicles plunged 35% in February when compared with the previous month of January. It used to be that weather was a major factor in the number of larcenies from motor vehicles reported in the winter months in Cambridge. More snow and cold temperatures would equal fewer car breaks and vice versa. However, in recent years, the overall drop in larcenies from motor vehicles has been so substantial that weather no longer seems to play as big of a role. The unpredictability of the trend for this crime continued over the first two months on 2020, when LMVs nosedived 42% when compared with the same time period as last year. Weather has become yet another factor that we can no longer rely on to explain the dwindling car break numbers over recent years.
- Over the first two weeks of January, there were only six scattered and unrelated larceny from motor vehicles reported in the City. Over the final 14 days of the month, distinct clusters of activity formed in the Agassiz and North Cambridge neighborhoods. Two arrests since 1.27.20 in these activity areas appear to have stopped this series.
- See map on next slide for details on LMV activity in February.

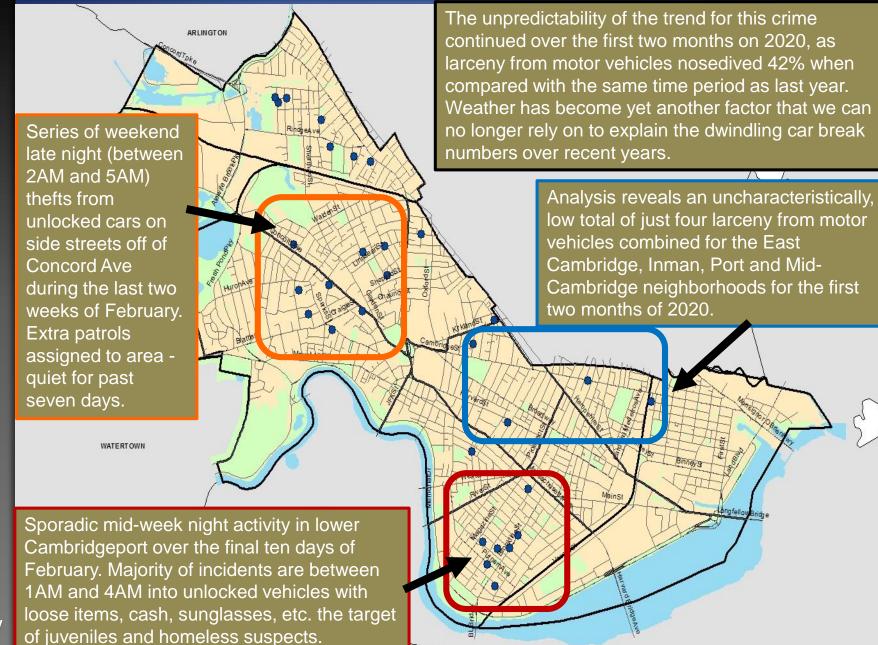
Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5-Year Average
-35% -42% -32%





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.20 – 3.2.20





(-4%).

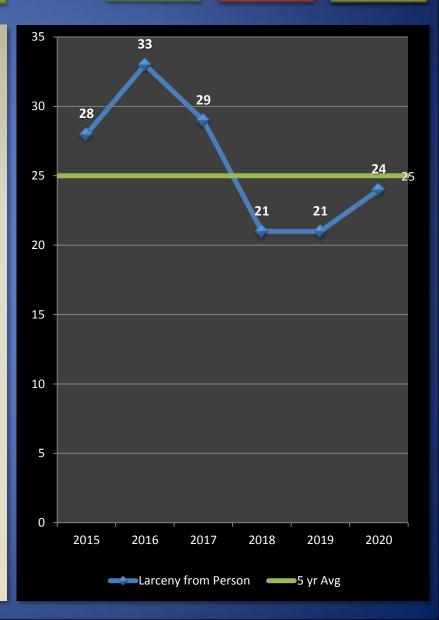


LARCENY from Person No Patterns

- Through the first two months of 2020, there have been 24 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up 3 incidents (14%) above the same time period in 2019. When compared to the 5 year average, there has been a decrease of one incident
- Central Square has seen the most activity this year with 10 incidents, followed by Harvard Square with 7. McDonald's in Central Square has reported two incidents of property stolen while left unattended. No other location has experienced more than one incident.
- The most common situation in which property has been stolen thus far in 2020 has involved the theft of close but unattended property (9), followed by thefts from patrons while dining (7).
- An arrest was made on 3.2.20 after a female stole a wallet from a victim that was dining at a café in Harvard Square.

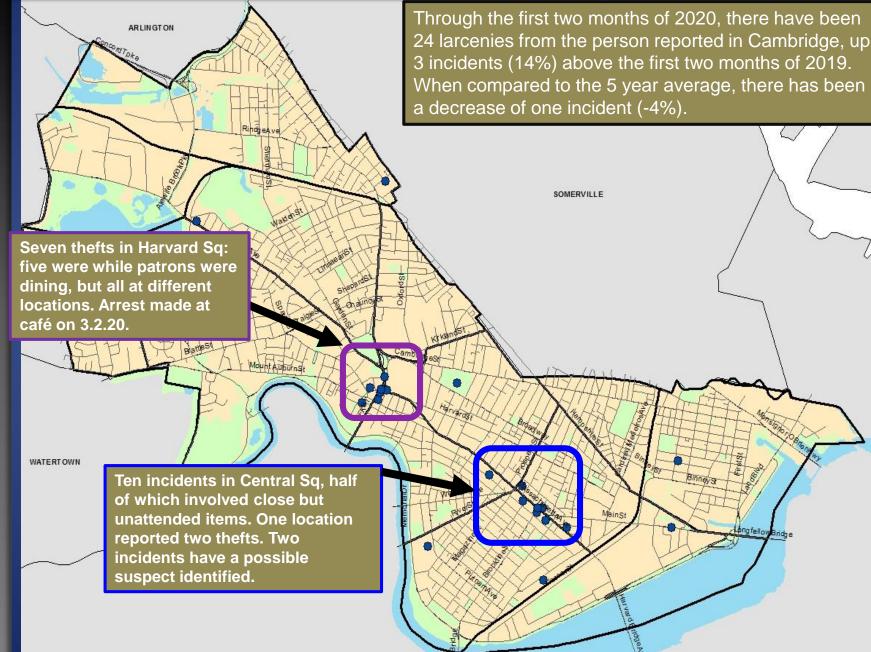
Percent Change







Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Person: 1.1.20 – 3.2.20







LARCENY of Bicycle No Patterns

Previous Year Last 4 Weeks

5-Year Average

-52%

+88%

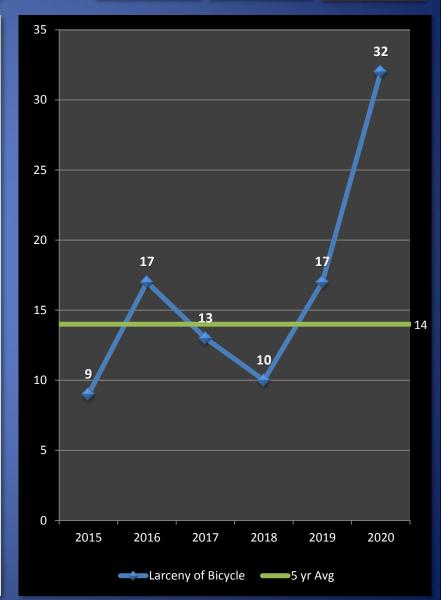
Percent Change

+129%

- Bike thefts continue to be up significantly (+15 incidents, or 88%) in 2020 when compared with 2019, and up 129% (+18 incidents) above the 5-year average. Of the 32 bike thefts reported thus far in 2020, 20 (63%) were reportedly locked at the time of the theft.
- The majority of the bike thefts have taken place in the lower half of the city thus far, with only 8 of the 32 reported north of Harvard Square.
- Although the majority of bicycles tend to be stolen from streets, sidewalks, and yards, similar to last year we continue to see an increase in thefts from personal garages, parking garages, and building storage areas.

Top Neighborhoods for Bike Thefts in 2020

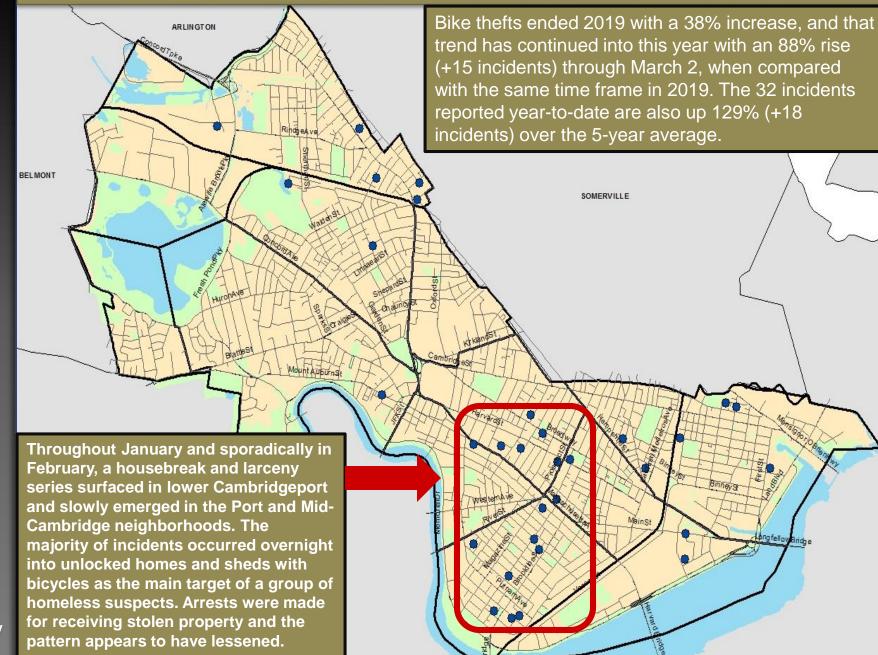
Neighborhood	YTD Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport	8	25%
N. Cambridge & Mid- Cambridge	5 each	16% each
East Cambridge	4	13%
Peabody, The Port, MIT, and Inman	2 each	6% each
W. Cambridge & Riverside	1 each	3% each



February 2020

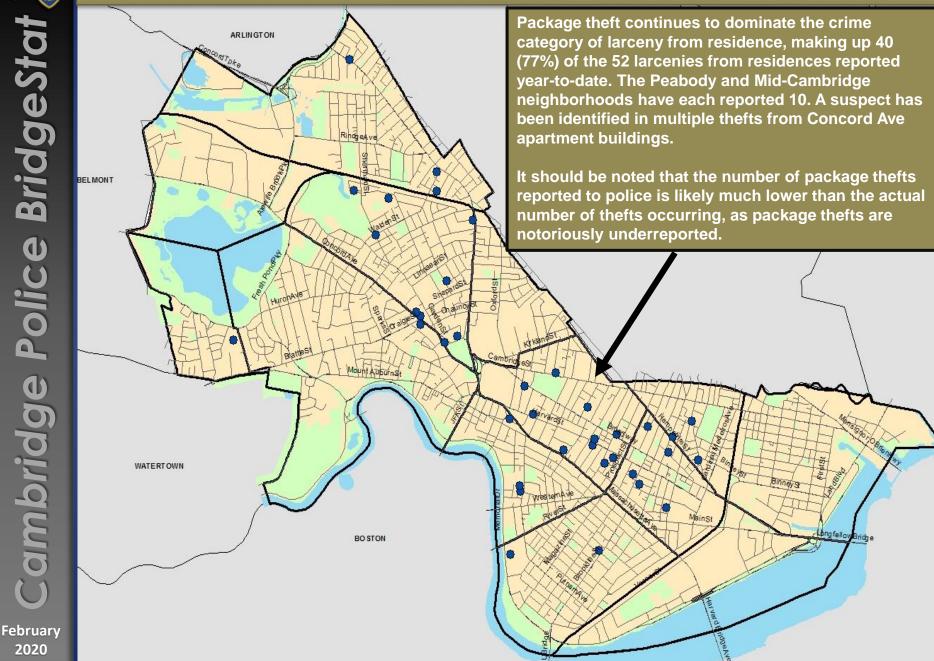


Geographic Breakdown of Bicycle Theft: 1.1.20 – 3.2.20



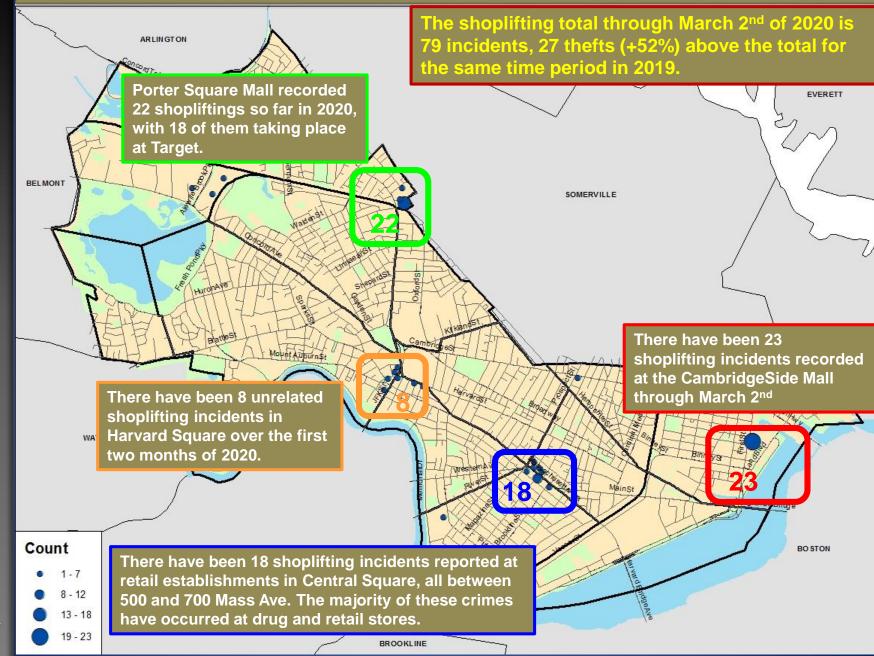


Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 1.1.20 – 3.2.20





Geographic Breakdown of Shoplifting: 1.1.20 – 3.2.20







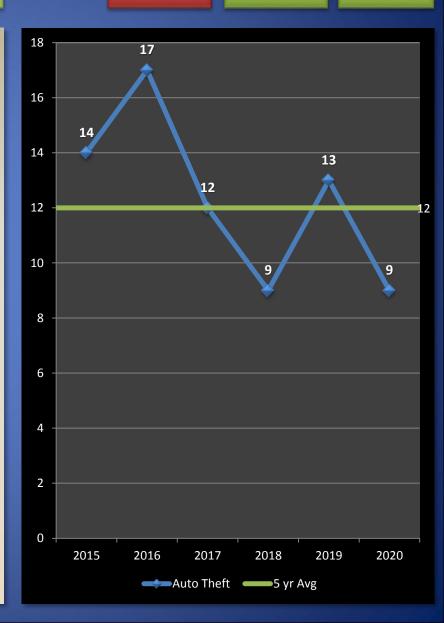
AUTO THEFT

No Patterns

- The projected 5-year weighted average for auto thefts for February is 12. With nine reported thus far in 2020, we are down 25% below the average and 31% below the 13 reported during this time frame in 2019.
- So far in 2020, the only neighborhood to experience more than one theft has been North Cambridge (with 2). The other neighborhoods that have experienced one theft so far are: Riverside, the Port, East Cambridge, West Cambridge, Cambridgeport, Mid-Cambridge, and the Highlands.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5-Year Average +250% -31% -25%





Help Prevent Crime

And keep yourself informed!

To receive information from the CPD:

- Sign up with for the Cambridge Alert
 Network, to receive alerts about
 emerging crime patterns, neighborhood
 meetings, and crime prevention tips, by
 visiting
- "Like" the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice

www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork.

- Follow @CambridgePolice on Twitter.
- Visit our website at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org</u> for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our "MyPD" smartphone app at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD</u>.

To Share Information with the CPD:

- Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at 617-349-3300.
 - Every call for service generates a police response, so help drive our resources by reporting things that seem suspicious or out of the ordinary.
- Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
 - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to Tip411 (847411). Begin your message with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips

February 2020



Questions?

- The complete 2018 Cambridge Police Annual Crime Report is available on our website at www.CambridgePolice.org.
- The 2019 Annual Crime Report will be released later this winter.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to: BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org.
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat.